

seeking? Why does the U.S. Government, rather than GE, have to take responsibility for this supposedly hypothetical risk?

Viewed strictly from GE's self-interest, its request has a certain logic. GE is a relatively small player in the North Korea project; most of the work is being done by South Korean companies. The sale of GE's steam turbines will bring in roughly \$30 million, yet the company fears it could face lawsuits ranging in the billions.

Why don't the organizers of the North Korea project simply do without GE and find another company more willing to take the risk?

They could. But doing that would require a redesign of the North Korea project, would lead to delays of a year or more and would increase the overall costs—most of which are being paid by South Korea. So, on the whole, everyone involved is eager to avoid losing the big American company.

For GE, it seems, the Clinton administration brings good things to life. The rest of us are left to pray that we don't get stuck with massive bills from nuclear plants we won't run in a country over which we have no control.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO AMEND INTERNET TAX FREE- DOM ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2000*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Chairman HYDE, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee Chairman GEKAS, and Ranking Member NADLER in introducing the "Internet Tax Reform and Reduction Act of 2000."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have been proud of our Committee's bipartisan accomplishments in helping to maintain our Nation's leadership in the information economy. These include modernizing our patent and copyright laws, insuring the availability of trained workers, and our passage last Congress of the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

Today, I join with my colleagues in introducing the Internet Tax Reform and Reduction Act of 2000 as the starting point in our process of considering possible legislative responses to the issue of the applicability of State and local taxes on the Internet. The legislation we are introducing today reflects the views of number of Advisory Committee on Electronics Commerce Members led by Virginia Governor James Gilmore.

I believe it is important that their views be converted into legislative language so that the Congressional review process can commence. I intend to work with Chairman HYDE and Representatives GEKAS and NADLER in seeing that the other members of the Commission, including Utah Governor Michael Leavitt, are given the same opportunity. I also expect that the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law will hold a series of hearings during which all interested parties, including State and local elected officials, the technology community, and retailers will be able to offer their views.

The bill we are introducing today would amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to impose a permanent moratorium on State and local taxes on Internet Access. It would also extend for 5 years the duration of the moratorium applicable to multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce and impose a 5 year moratorium on sales of digital goods and products. Further, the bill would set forth factors for the determination of jurisdictional nexus by the States with regard to Internet transactions, encourage the States to adopt a simplified sales and use tax, and set up an advisory commission on uniform sales and use taxes.

The issue of the application of State and local taxes on the Internet is one of the most important matters facing the Judiciary Committee and the Congress. The Internet has led our robust economy into the 21st century. Its use in both the commercial and consumer sectors has skyrocketed, spurring the development of new businesses, products and services, and new and less expensive research and communications methods. At the same time, the Internet poses many new and novel State and local taxation issues. The Internet is not a partisan issue by any means, and I am happy to join with my colleagues as we begin to address this critical issue.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO "WAKE UP" TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 13, 2000*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Edina, Minnesota, School District, which was recently recognized by the National Sleep Foundation as the 2000 Sleep Capital of the Nation.

My good friend, Dr. Kenneth Dragseth, the Superintendent of Edina Schools, came to Washington to accept the award on behalf of the parents, students and teachers from Edina.

This national recognition is well-deserved and is a great way to celebrate National Sleep Awareness Week.

Four decades after President John F. Kennedy urged all Americans to take a 50-mile hike, Americans are once again waking up to the benefits of healthy living and the need for a well-balanced diet and regular exercise. But we too often neglect the importance of sleep.

Thankfully, not Edina. This school district, which is recognized universally as one of the finest public school systems in the nation, truly gets it.

They recognize that the future competitiveness and strength of our country depends on improving our education system.

That's why the Edina School District took concrete steps to make sure its students get enough sleep by starting school one hour later each day.

A recent National Sleep Foundation poll confirms that teens stay up too late and wake up too early. Another new study noted that on average, teens are getting about 2 hours less sleep a night than they need. This puts them

at risk for car accidents, falling asleep in class, moodiness and depression.

To improve education, we must promote healthy learning environments. Stressing the need for enough sleep is essential for such environments. The bottom line is this: adequate sleep is a key component of a quality education.

I am also including for the RECORD a special "Bill of Nights" by the National Sleep Foundation which outlines the important suggestions by this group for improving sleep habits for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly applaud the Edina schools and their leadership to ensure that young people come to school healthy and ready to learn. They know it's time for America to "wake up" to this critically important problem.

Congratulations again, Edina Schools. You are ahead of the curve and I am proud to represent you!

PREAMBLE TO THE BILL OF NIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL SLEEP FOUNDATION—PRESENTED MARCH 28, 2000, WASHINGTON, DC

Whereas, science and medicine have determined that obtaining a sufficient amount of quality sleep is just as essential for good health as maintaining a balanced diet and getting regular exercise;

Whereas, obtaining a sufficient amount of quality sleep can also help to ensure personal safety, increase productivity and add to the enjoyment of life;

Whereas, the National Sleep Foundation is dedicated to improving public health and safety, this organization encourages all People to understand the importance of sleep and to make obtaining sufficient quality sleep a priority in their lives;

Therefore, the following Articles, created by the National Sleep Foundation and supported by its constituents, champion the right of all People to enjoy restful sleep for healthy, safe, and productive lives.

THE BILL OF NIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL SLEEP FOUNDATION

Article I All people should have the opportunity to fully understand the essential role of sleep in maintaining optimum mental and physical function.

Article II All People should have the opportunity to obtain the amount of sleep they require to maintain their optimum mental and physical function and to enjoy the benefits that sleep provides, including positive mood, alertness, enhanced memory and cognitive capabilities, and a sense of well-being.

Article III All people should have the opportunity to obtain sufficient, quality sleep free from disruptions due to environmental factors (i.e., light, noise, etc.), irregular sleep schedules, and underlying mental and physical conditions.

Article IV All People should have the opportunity to obtain accurate, scientifically validated sleep information and education in order to understand and improve their sleep.

Article V All People should have the benefit of a well-rested workforce and be secure in the knowledge that those who are depended upon to perform critical functions in society—including healthcare, transportation, public safety, hazardous materials management, and others—are attentive, alert and well-rested.

Article VI All People should be safe from the danger posed by drowsy drivers. Every driver is responsible for keeping the nation's roadways safe and free from the hazards posed by sleepiness and fatigue.